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THE MEMORIAL SUBLIME

To persons of affluence these modern Chimes present the one most fitting and enduring form of Memorial. Inquiry addressed to J. C. Deagan, Inc., 279 Deagan Building, Chicago (to whom we are indebted for these folders) will bring, without obligation, full information including attractive Memorial Booklet.

Courage or Cowardice

RAYNER LITHO.CO.CHICAGO

COURAGE OR COWARDICE, WHICH?

Dt.20:8 What man is there that is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his own.

Judges 7:3 Proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and trembling, let himreturn and depart early from Mt.Gilead.

INTRO. Text from instructions for preparation for battle. The cowardly were not only unfit to fight themselves, but they passed on their cowardly spirit to the others. These instructions tell us what God thinks of cowards and how little he can rely on them for service. As one has said, "A coward is like a rotten apple in a barrel: it not only is of no value but it starts the other apples to rotting."

On the other hand God urges his people to be strong and courageous. "And Moses said unto Jushua in sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of a good courage; for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord has has sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the Lord he it is that goeth before thee, and will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed". The exhortation thru the apostle is, "having done all, stand" Studying such similar passages of Scripture, it is plain that God wants us to be strong and brave, not only for our own sakes and the good we can do, but also for the sake of our influence over others.

I. Xn Living requires strength and courage.

1. It takes courage to be loyal to Xn standards of right living.
   a. In ordinary battle there is but one opponent, your enemy.
      In Xn living we are opposed by friends and loved ones.
   b. In ordinary battle your enemy is constantly fighting you. In Xn living your enemies may be totally indifferent to you.

The moral cowardice of professing Xns is doing more to prevent the kingdom of God than all the forces of evil put together.

2.

I.2. It takes courage to think according to Xn truth.

3. It takes courage to put one's faith in God according to God's promises in His Word.

4. It takes courage to pray.

Willingness to do God's will-consecration.

My forced visit to P.T.A. I felt unfit.

Many Xns unfit to come into the presence of God, and they know it, but they are not willing to make themselves presentable. They like their worldly living clothes too well and dont like to dess up in holy robes.

5 It takes courage to encourage others.

It was reported that during the siege of Ladysmit in South Africa a civilian was arrested and tried by court-martialand sentenced to one yr imprisonment for being a discourager of the soldiers.

Alpine guides at places instruct their climbers not even to talk, whistle or whisper, lest they start an avalanche of snow that would bury villages below. Thhseeare men and women carrying such loads of duty, anxiety and sorrow that to add to their burdem would crush them. Then here comes along one of those discouragers, with no sense of the fitness of things, and talks in a disheartening and discouraging way, magnifying difficulties and increasing the load of sorrow and helplessness.

Would to God there were fewer of thise hinderes in the world.

There are those in every church who pour cold water on every proposal to go ahead and do something for the kingdom of God. They are like the people of Canaan who when Nehemiah started to rebuild the city and temple conspired together to come a fight against Jerusalem and to hinder it.

Oh, let us avoid the sin of being hinderers. Let us watch carefully against this crime of cowardice. May we always be inclined to help and encourageothers.

III. We Xns should cultivate our Courage.

1. The farmer, near Calhoun, Ga., who fought off, single-handed and unarmed, a pack of half-starved mountain w wolves.

In our Xn warfare we do not have to gight alone. The Great Captain of Our Salvation is always with us. He never lost a battle, he never lost one of hisown, When we fight for X we fight with Christ and have nd need to fear.

The story of the robbery of a jewelry store in London. Half-open door& 3 robbers about to loot safe. One captured, two escape. As they ran out a gentleman passing gave chase and captured another of the robbers. Requested to go to police station to testify. Proved to be the Prince of Wales.

Christ, our Prince and King, is always near the soul who is guarding his precious treasures and faithfully struggling to defend them.

Oh, let us become ashamed of whatever cowardice we may possess, let us be ashamed of every time we ever discouraged others in their efforts to go straight and live right. Let us put on the whole armor of God, and let us let God put courage into our hearts that we might put courage into the hearts of others.